

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 9, 2004, a restriction requirement was made and originally filed claims were divided into three groups of claims.

In the above amendments, original claims 1-47 have been cancelled without prejudice to insert them or similar claims into one or more divisional applications and new claims 48-57 have been added.

A petition for a 2-month extension of time and the corresponding extension fee are submitted herewith.

Applicants elect the invention of Group I for prosecution in the present application. New claims 48-57 are directed to a method and apparatus for forming outserts and are generally similar but not identical to original claims 1-9 and 16-24 of Group I set forth in the Office Action, which were also directed to a method and apparatus for forming outserts.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 48-57 are directed to the same invention for restriction purposes (i.e. Group I) and should be examined together since they recite methods and apparatuses for forming outserts and since the method claims refer to various portions of an apparatus. For example, method claim 48 recites "said folds in said sheet of paper being made using a first folding apparatus having a plurality of folding rollers"; "said fold in said first folded article being made using a second folding apparatus having a plurality of folding rollers"; "said pressure being applied by a pressing unit having a pair of pressure rollers"; etc.

Page 3 of the Office Action requested that Applicants elect one of four species for prosecution and identify the claims that are readable thereon.

Initially, it should be noted the four species identified in the Office Action illustrate a method of forming outserts and booklets; they do not show any apparatus for forming outserts or booklets. Therefore, it is not clear how the apparatus claims in elected Group I (original claims 1-33), or the new apparatus claims 53-57, could be read on the figures set forth in any of those four species.

It should also be noted that all of the original method claims 1-9 of Group I, as well as the new method claims 48-52, are generic to both Species I and II identified in the Office Action, with Species I and II being directed to methods of forming outserts. With that explanation, Applicants elect Species I and II for prosecution in the present application, and new method claims 48-52 are readable on both Species I and II. Nonelected Species III and

IV (which are in fact a single embodiment) are directed to a method for forming a folded booklet, which is no longer being claimed in the present application.


If there is any matter that the Examiner would like to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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